

Community Forum on Indy Parks

Hosted by Paula Freund

Compiled by Jean Deeds

The Value of Parks, breakout session

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Jeff Miller: There has never been a political champion for parks throughout the past four city administrations. No one puts parks up there as a top priority. Staff is overworked, underpaid, underappreciated.

Indy Parks is Indy's best idea. We must resist the pressures on the department. How can Indy spend \$6M on the stadium but the dollars aren't available for parks. More people use the parks system each year than attend games at all the pro sports stadiums combined.

Mary Ann Reugger: Lives in Arden, near Holliday Park. Arden is "in the heart of the parks." Her daughter is going to school near JTV Hill, MLK Park, the Monon. Parks are such a wonderful resource for children. Need more partnerships between/ parks and schools; kids are users and need to also give back—do maintenance, etc. Parks provide stress relief—just driving by them.

Kids need to appreciate the outdoors.

Dana Williams, IPS teacher. Takes her students to Garfield twice/week. The school goes to Garfield once/year to clean up the park. Her school kids use Garfield after school, in the summer. A wonderful resource.

At Peace Learning Center at Eagle Creek Park, staff sees kids who have never seen a deer or raccoon. The park introduces them to nature.

Church groups need to help with maintenance.

Parks provide a venue for wild flowers, bugs, water, snakes. This lady has a sense of awe at what you can see in a city park. Nature is right here in the city.